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AIDS TO AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS

be induced to flourish on walls with a little nursing.

'However, all I am anxious to point out, as I said before, is that just as you have Alpine rockeries and lily tanks, so a wall may be made a distinct feature in a garden with its own little flora all to itself. And when once you have carefully examined such a wall (say in some old Botanical Gardens, as those in Oxford), you will at once admit that it is worth cultivating for itself; that there is no more beautiful feature possible to a garden than an old stone wall covered with patches of bright-coloured flowers, or green with ferns and grasses.'

AIDS TO AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS

LAST month we mentioned that we were prepared to develop amateur negatives free of charge, and we shall be glad to supply details to any of our readers who happened to miss seeing the July number.

As several letters have reached us requiring rather full replies, we must ask our friends always to enclose a stamped envelope when a direct answer is needed. This may seem a paltry thing to ask for, but as the writer receives something like fifty letters per day, the postage account becomes a serious item in twelve months.

Lumière's have succeeded in introducing a new fixing salt, which they name Anhydrous Acid Hypo. The advantages over the ordinary fixing bath is that it acts as a clearing and hardening bath and also that less washing is required. To those with a limited water supply or who work in hot climates, these points are of importance. The same firm also announce several new developers, which will be very useful for certain classes of work.

Dr. Heseikel, of Frankfort-on-Maine, has succeeded in producing a new film, which will be available for English amateurs by the time this number is published. Its advantages over the celluloid film is that no chemical action is set up by the basis employed, consequently the film remains good for a longer period, and also that prints can be taken from either side without

an appreciable loss of sharpness. This is an immense boon to carbon workers.

As there are no printed directions yet to be had, it may be useful to give directions for the using of these new films, which have been named "Secco-Films."

Each packet contains twelve sensitive films, which are wrapped in black paper; and also twelve strengthening films.

It is advisable on opening the packet to remove the strengthening films and put them on one side, in order to avoid subsequent mistakes, and these films should preferably be kept flat. With rollable films the strengthening sheets are packed in flat in separate packets.

Secco-Films may be exposed in any camera by means of the special carriers, which are supplied to order, or by the aid of any carrier which will keep them flat.

Development may be effected in exactly the same way as with dry plates, but we strongly advise the addition of 2% of glycerine to the developer. The film should be first soaked in water, or better still in water containing 2% of glycerine, till limp, and then placed face downwards in the developer and turned over. This precautionary treatment is only advised in order to avoid the formation of air bubbles, but the film may be laid direct into the developing dish and the developer flowed over in one even sweep, if air bubbles are avoided. It is really immaterial which side of the film is placed uppermost, but it is better to place the film face downward, as this obviates the very slight tendency to curl.

Density may be very easily judged by holding the negative up to the light in the ordinary way, and the paper support being rendered very translucent by the developer, there is not the slightest difficulty in judging density.

In order to avoid touching the film with the fingers, it may be laid on a glass plate and held in position with a couple of india-rubber bands.

Fixation is effected as usual, but we strongly recommend the use of an acid fixing bath, because it hardens and clears the negatives, but this is purely a matter of personal taste.

Washing is of course extremely easy because of the negative being on a porous support, and the hyposulphite is, therefore, more readily removed.

A PICTURE BY G. M. STEVENS

Intensification or reduction should be done immediately after washing.

To the last washing water it is advisable to add 2% of glycerine. In this last washing water the strengthening film should be soaked for one minute and then the negative and strengthening film should be placed film to film, placed on blotting paper and gently squeezed together with a roller squeezer or the hand, and then hung up to dry.

When absolutely dry, the edges may be cut with a pair of scissors, or else the corners just rubbed apart and one of the papers stripped and then the other paper pulled off, when the negative is left as a thin film, which may be printed from in the ordinary printing frame if a sheet of glass is placed in the front.

Although the negatives show a slight grain, this cannot be detected in printing, nor in

lantern slides or transparencies if in the latter case a sheet of ground glass be placed in front of the negatives.

One great advantage of these films is that they may be printed from either side without loss of sharpness, and from their particular surface they may also be retouched on either side.

Several of our friends who have travelled in damp climates have found great difficulty in preserving chemicals and papers, and many experiments have been made to overcome the difficulty. Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome have been most attentive to this matter, and seem to have achieved a success in making up a compact and reliable set of chemicals, but, so far, we are still waiting for a reliable paper that will resist extreme temperature and damp.

JOHN LE COUTEUR.

ANSWERS TO AMATEURS

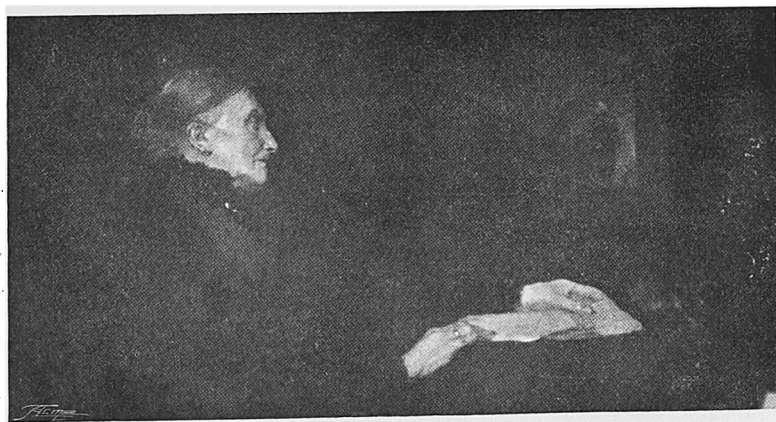
REPLY TO BETA.—The fault shown is under-exposure. Make a note that under-exposure is caused by making snap-shots indoors; by closing the lens too soon for a time exposure; using a small stop for snap-shots, and generally making an exposure in shade or in a weak light.

REPLY TO PRESCOTT.—The fault is yours, for if plates are properly packed they invariably carry safely through the post. Use, say, an old plate box, make a newspaper pad and place this in the bottom of the box. Wrap the plates in tissue paper, a piece of plain paper between each one, then make another pad for the top, making the entire contents solid, and they may be looked upon as secure.

REPLY TO TOROS.—You would be advised to have your films packed in air-tight tins for continental travelling.

REPLY TO M.P.S.—Permission will be granted you for taking photographs at the Zoological Gardens by applying to the Secretary, 3, Hanover Square, W.

REPLY TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBER.—No doubt the camera you are using has not sufficient extension, and this may account for your not obtaining the results wished for with a Dallmeyer lens. The lenses are very good and well worth the money you have paid.



'MEMORIES'
FROM THE PICTURE BY
G. M. STEVENS,
EXHIBITED IN THE
CERCLE DU SILLON—BRUSSELS, 1899